

F.V.C
18

10346/P

54562

THE
SYMPTOMS, NATURE,
CAUSES and CURE
OF THE
ESSERA,
OR,
NETTLE-RASH.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED
Some General OBSERVATIONS on the CAUSES
and CURE of CUTANEOUS DISEASES.

By L. A E R Y, junior. M. D.

Non fingendum aut excogitandum, sed inveniendum.

Bacon.

WHITEHAVEN,
Printed by J. WARE and SON ;
And Sold by G. ROBINSON, Pater-noster-row, LONDON ;
T. SLACK, NEWCASTLE ; and KINCAID and BELL,
EDINBURGH.

M DCC LXXIV.

[Price, ONE SHILLING.]



10346/P

T O

WILLIAM HEBERDEN, M.D.

Col. Med. Lond. and F. R. S.

S I R,

THE Author, altho' he has not the happiness to be of your acquaintance, yet he begs leave to inscribe to you, this small treatise on the *Nettle-rash*, in testimony of his great respect, for your knowledge, and abilities in your profession.

I am Sir,

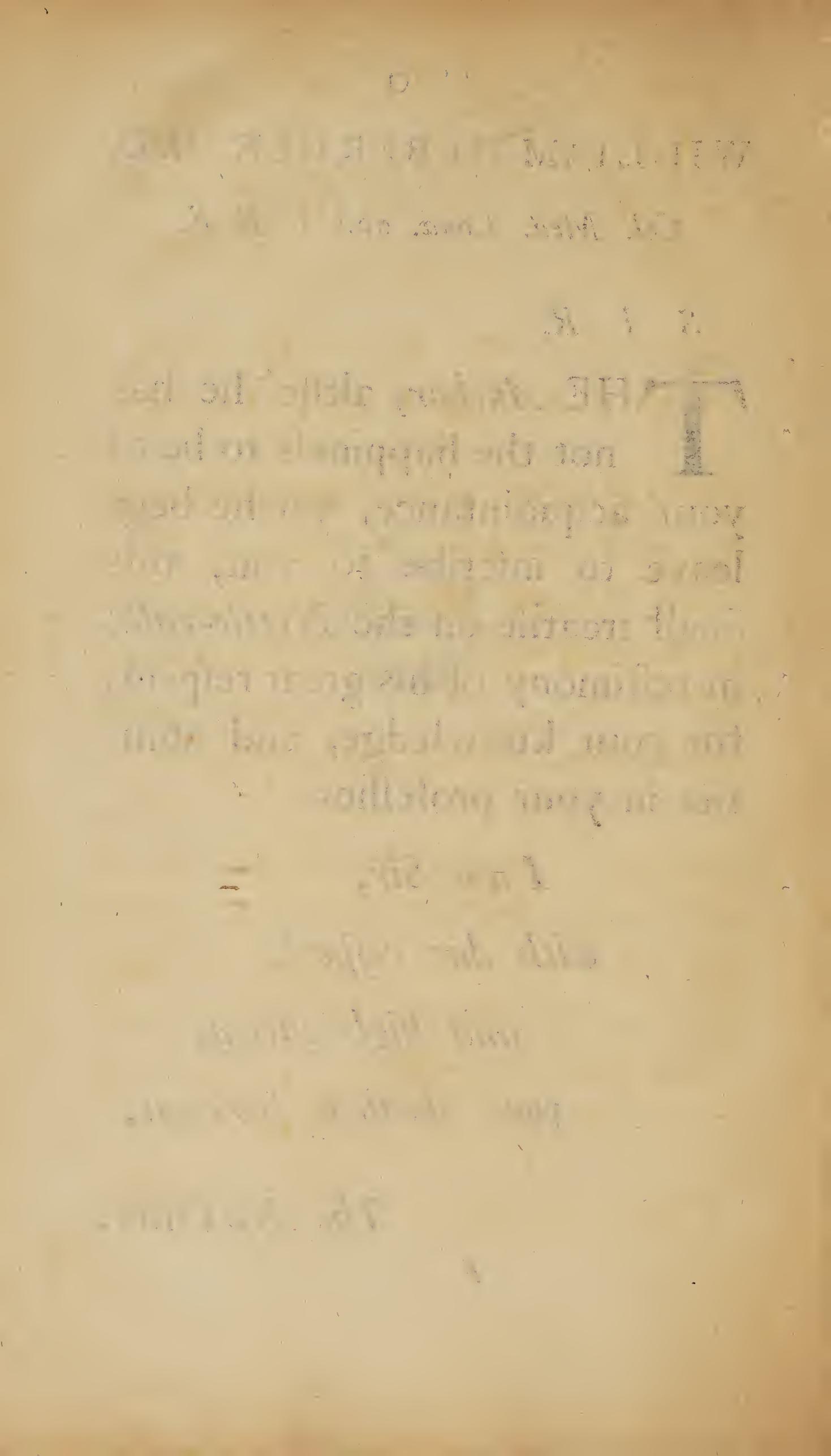
with due respect,

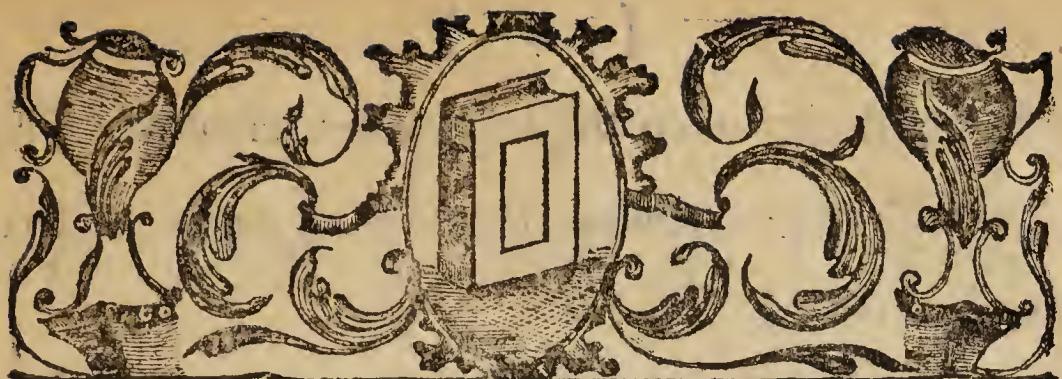
and high esteem,

your obedient Servant,

The AUTHOR.

A.





T H E INTRODUCTION.

THE Pathology of cutaneous diseases, for want of sufficient *data*, is in general obscure; their nature, and proximate cause, as yet are not altogether known; hence the method of cure is neither regular, nor uniform; nor depends on any fixed principles. To supply these defects, would require greater abilities than I am at present possest of.

Had not the ingenious Dr. *Heberden* * given us only a palliative cure, for the NETTLE-RASH; which appears to me to have been published with a view of inviting others, that might be in possession of a radical CURE, to communicate it; I should not have thought of obtruding my opinion on the Public;

* Medical Transactions by the College of Physicians London,
Vol. 2d. p. 173.

but having undertaken the task, some remarks on cutaneous diseases in general; however *en passant*, I scruple not to hazard,

In the Physiology I shall, so far as I can, follow my learned master and generous friend Dr. Cullen, and the accurate Dr. Heberden. As to the practical part, I have no doubt of its standing the test of ages, being the result of above 30 Years experience by my Father, and also confirm'd by my own practice.

As many of the diseases I have treated of are not a little intricate and obscure; this it is hop'd will incline the more learned in the profession, to overlook with candour the defects which may be found in the following observations. However, if with all their imperfections, they convey to the younger Physician, a more distinct idea of cutaneous disorders, or in any case direct him more happily in the cure; I shall have my aim fulfilled.

Fungor Vice Cotis, Acutum

Reddere quae ferrum valet, exors ipsa secandi.

T H E

D E F I N I T I O N.

THE Effera is defined by *Sauvages** “Eruptio
“ ut plurimum apyreta, suberysipelatosa, subito acce-
“ dens per vices et recedens ”

“ Urticata *Vogelii* definitiones Generum mōbo-
“ rum. Synochos quotidiana continua mitior, tuber-
cula puncturis urticarum similia, rubra, prominentia,
fugacia ”

Vogel has also under the Class of Tumours Urticaria
which he defines “ Tubercula puncturis urticarum si-
“ milia, rubra, pruriēntia, fugacia, acūta ”

Uredo, *Linnæi* Genera morborum definita. Su-
damina inæqualia, ruberrima, dilatabilia, pruriginosa,
fugacia, recidivantia, furfuraceo evanescentia.

Urticaria, Cel. *Cullen*, Class 1. Pyrexiae, ordo. III.
Exanthematæ G. 31. defines it, Febris amphiemerina
contagiosa.

Die secundo rubores maculosi, urticarum puncturas

* Nosol. Sauvag.

referentes,

referentes, interdiu fere evanescentes, vespere cum febre redeuntes, et post paucos dies in squamulas minutissimas penitus abeuntes.

Purpura urticata, *Junker.*

Effere, *Cleghorn's diseases of Minorca.*

Effere, *Sacre Rul.*

Volatic Itch, *Fallopia.*

A certain Itch, *Turner's Treatise of diseases of the Skin.*

Effera, Sare, *Senart. pract. lib. v. cap. 26.*

Est et alia hujusce morbi species, *Sydenham, de Febr. erysipelat. p. 279.*

Effera, or Nettle-rash, *Heberden, Med. Transf. vol. 2. p. 173.*

HISTORY of the DISEASE.

I find little of this disease, amongst the systematic writers, and it has been said, that it was not known unto the Greeks, and that it was first described by the Arabians; how far the *εγκεφαλος* of *Hippocrates*, may comprehend the NETTLE-RASH, is difficult to say. From the discription I find of it in

Hippocrates,

Hippocrates, according to, *Celsus*, who is supposed to understand him very well, he says “ pustulae
 “ rum plura genera sunt: nam moda circa totum
 “ corpus, partemve aspredo quædam sit similis his puf-
 “ tulis, quæ ex urtica, vel ex sudore nascuntur.
 “ Εἰδῶλα Græci vocant: eaque modo rūbent, modo
 “ colorem cutis non excedunt ” * Does it not hence appear probable, that the Efferæ was known to both the Greek and Roman Physicians ? but as the Chronology of a disease, to many readers may be thought to have more of curiosity, than utility in it; I shall at present say no more on this head.

It takes its name of NETTLE-RASH, from its resembling the stinging of Nettles, upon the skin. Small tumours on the skin often appear instantaneously, especially when the skin is rub'd or scratch'd, and seldom stay many hours on the same place, and sometimes not many minutes, generally from place to place, for one or two hours at a time, two or three times every day: for the greatest part of twenty four

* Vide Celsi Medicin. lib. v. cap. 15.

hours, no part of the skin is exempt from them. With these cutaneous swellings, there are sometimes long wheals as if the parts had been struck with a whip, and where many eruptions are together, and continue an hour or two, there the parts are considerably swelled; particularly in the arms, hands, and face: and are often scab'd after scratching, but contain no water, nor are they contagious.

The ingenious Dr. *Heberden* does not mention fever; nor did I ever meet with it, or any person confined to bed, from this disease alone: yet all the nosologists that I have seen, class the NETTLE-RASH amongst the febrile diseases, as also the faithful *Sydenham*.

The Effera of *Sauvages*, is sometimes without fever § The celebrated *Cullen* * says " he has never seen it but when he could consider it as a symptomatic affection; he thinks Dr. *Sydenham*'s account amounts to the same, and so far as he can perceive or meet with it in other writers, it may be view'd as a symptomatic affection; but however he cannot

§ *Gregory's Clin. Lect. M. S.*

* *Lect. on pract. M. S. S.*

" be positive in this, it may be for aught he knows a
 " specific contagion, or specific matter, he has never
 " seen it contagious, nor in any degree epidemic ex-
 " cept at such seasons when Scarlatina, Erysipelas,
 " Miliary, and several other forms of cutaneous e-
 " ruptions happen to be frequent, as has been the
 " case in this very present season (1771 (2) we have
 " had Erysipelas, frequent miliary eruption, and se-
 " veral others." The continuance in some is only a
 few days, in others months, I have known some com-
 plain for a year with very short intervals; and Dr. He-
 berden says, some for seven or ten years. All sexes,
 and ages are liable to it, the temperate, as well as in-
 temperate, the valetudinarian, and healthy; the sea-
 sons of the year, heat, or cold, produce no change;
 some are said to alternate with stomachic complaints,
 and head-ach, but the greatest number have no com-
 plaints of that kind. The ingenious Dr. Cleghorn says,
 it is an Epidemic disease in Minorca.

D I A G N O S I S.

From the ITCH, it differs in not containing water
 or any fluid, and in not being contagious.

RED-RASH, this it resembles; but generally not so regular in the size of the eruptions, itches more, and wants the miliary fever, at least where I have seen it. We may suppose the eruption to be venereal, if they are joined with the antecedent and concomitant symptoms of the Pox. ^{+ Vide Astruc of the venereal disease.}

THEORY of the DISEASE.

First, a few observations concerning cutaneous cases in general.

Whatever produces an acrimony of the Fluids, has been suspected as the cause: the judicious Hoffman says, they rise from an impure, and acrid serum stagnating between the exhalent vessels, and the nervous and tendinous small fibres of the skin; which are by these means corroded; hence ulcerations, or obstructions, hence tumour: yet the origin of acrimony is often a little uncertain, notwithstanding the opinion, which obtains with some Physicians, that this acrimony primarily had its origin in the blood, and derived from thence to the skin. It may be but an Hypothiesis; for al-

^{+ Vide Astruc of the venereal disease.}

though an acrimony may exist in a particular part, yet it does not follow from thence, that it pre-existed in the blood, for this may be owing to the diseased state of the secretory organs in the skin, which serve for perspiration, and sweat: because sweat is not sweat, 'till it is secreted on the skin; nor is there any urine in the system, 'till it is secreted in the organs of urine. That evacuation which is called insensible perspiration, is a HALITUS, when it makes its exit, in the shape of sweat, it is fluid but it appears always to be deposited under the CUTIS, and perhaps is transmitted through inorganic secretaries.

Again, an acrimony may be on the skin which we cannot suspect to have been in the blood, as in slight cuts, burns, couhage, or cow-itch, cut hair; also various substances taken internally, which in people of the best health produces Exanthemata; and upon being discharged from the stomach by vomiting, their effects suddenly vanish; also the effects of various fishes, as shrimps, muscles, & likewise honey, kernels of fruits, and Ocul. vel Chel, Cancor. &c.

‡ Vide Van Swieten's account of their Effects.

Hence we may observe, this disease, and cutaneous diseases in general, are not always to be deduced from a Matter present in the blood. But from perspiration being obstructed, or the distribution of the blood itself, as it is determined with a greater or less IMPETUS to the skin, from various causes ; as amongst others, the PATHEMATA ANIMI may be referred ; which produce effusions, or stagnations, from which cutaneous affections may altogether arise ; or acrimony, and its subsequent consequences may follow. The effects which may happen, from this change of distribution in the fluids, we may understand from a suppression of the CATAMENIA. Can it be proved that a particular morbid fluid is discharged ? Yet their retention occasions innumerable evils in various parts of the body, which evidently for the most part are to be deduced from a changed distribution of the fluids. Indeed some diseases of the skin may depend on this change of distribution of the fluids, and their increased IMPETUS in the vessels of the skin : as in sanguine temperaments, the disposition to HæMORRHAGES, to the GUTTÆ ROSEA ; and also we often observe some of both

sexes about the *Acme* of life, or about that age in which they labour under the greatest degree of PLETHORA; they are liable to cutaneous eruptions, which yet after a few years depart of their own accord.

From what has been above said, it is sufficiently manifest, that diseases of the skin are not always produced from the whole mass of blood being vitiated. Hence I would conclude that it is obvious, that although cutaneous cases continue for many years, yet no other function of the system besides that of the skin is disordered; nor any evidence of taint in the blood; for however we inspect the blood, the condition of it, we cannot perceive the least morbid deviation, or to have at all departed from its sound and natural state.

Lastly we cannot doubt, that all diseases of the skin, do not proceed from the common crisis of the blood being vitiated; or a general affection of the System: whosoever animadverts, that these cutaneous cases are often not cured by internal medicines, but by a change of the part affected itself: by external applications, as in the ITCH, TINEA CAPITIS, some ulcers of the skin, &c.

There

There are diseases of the skin, which sometimes remain for life, as **LEPROSY**, and **ELEPHANTIASIS**, may be owing to the singular nature of the organs of the skin; hence topics applied, so as to occasion a slight inflammation on the skin, which may change the morbid state of these organs, and this application repeated Spring and Autumn, has sometimes cured the **LEPROSY.**

That the **LEPROSY** is often a disease of the System, I have no doubt, and therefore frequently will also require the aid of internal remedies to cure it.

The **TINEA CAPITIS**, where the fluids are affected, about the bulbous roots of the hair, is cured by topical applications alone; the cruel treatment of tearing up the hair by the roots, with a plaster of pitch, is sufficiently known! The following unguents, whose operations are attended with no pain or danger to the patient, will frequently remove it.

Re : Picis liquid. unc. j ff.

Sulph. viv. pulv. unc. ff.

Ceræ flavæ drach. j. misce fiat Unguentum, quo
inungatur Caput bis die.

Vel

Vel.

Re. Ung, basil. verid. unc. ij.

Which is to be used in the same way, and after it has been sufficiently deterged, with either of the above, it will be proper to cicatrize it, with Cerat. epulot. No one that is conversant with practice, can be ignorant, that ulcers in the skin, are sometimes also cured by topics alone; as by preparations of copper, or very little mercury.

At the same time however, we are to take care of too general conclusions: therefore, although cutaneous Maladies are often improperly attributed, to an acrimony in the blood, as the cause of them; yet we readily grant, that Acrimony in some Cafes, does exist in the blood, and produces diseases of the skin, e. g, in the SCURVY, SYPHILIS, SCROPHULA, and perhaps the NETTLE-RASH, &c. especially where the last continues for years.

Miss D. had a HERPES MILIARIS, (as described by the judicious Hoffman,) on her hand, which was repelled, by the external application of Helleb. alb. and Crem. tart. this retrocession was followed by a

Cholic

Cholic, which did not yield to gentle aloetics, or neutral salts joined with opiates: she then took an Electuary, composed of Elect. lenitiv. fulph. præcip. Testac. et Pulv. contray. comp. During the use of this medicine, the HERPES returned again; the Cholic immediately left her, and the Tetter was at last cured with the following prescription.

Re. Ung. citrin dē ph. edin. unc. ij. cūjus parum applicetur ad partem affectam bis die, et repeatetur vic. j.

Re. Elect. lenitiv. unc. j.

Gum guaiac.

Æthiop. mineral. ana unc. ss.

Syr. Symp. q. s. ut Fiat Electarium, de quo Capiat molem nucis moschatæ, mane, et vesperi quotidie.

The GUTTA ROSEA, is not always merely topical, often alternates with stomachic complaints: in general the effects of sedentary life, and hard drinking; however, many sober people have this disease. Where it is entirely topical, the following Liniment will often answer:

Re.

Re. Cerat. epulot unc. j.

Mercur. præcip. alb. scrup. ij.

Lixiv. tartar. q. s. ut Fiat Linimentum, cuius
pauxil. applicetur ad partes affectas hora decu-
bitus, et semel repetatur.

But if the system be affected, and that from luxury
and indolence; much exercise and cool regimen are
necessary, and no inflammatory diathesis prevails, BARK
is recommended with exercise.

The ingenious Dr. Fothergill cured with Hemlock.
Ambrose Parre mentions one cured by a large blister
applied to the face; it induced a violent fever and swel-
ling of the face. *Hoffman*, after proper internal reme-
dies, recommends an epithem of Sæch. saturn. and
Vitriol. alb.

Although there is no reason to doubt, that various
kinds of acrimony may be in the blood, and pass off by
perspiration, or particularly determine to the skin, and
there produce diseases: yet we ought to observe that
the nature of this acrimony is scarce ever so well
known, as that we can deduce the indications of cure
a priori.

A woman, after being for nine years afflicted with an itchy eruption at the points of her fingers, had it cured by means of a plaster ; this was followed by a Fluor albus, attended with many troublesome symptoms ; the principal of which were oppression at her breast, a tendency to delirium, vomiting, and frequent pains in her belly. The ordinary medicines employed in such cases were tried in vain, and attempts were made to recall the eruptions to her fingers ; but to no purpose. But by the use of Stramonium pills, her symptoms were greatly abated, her appetite restored, and her general habit and strength much recruited. *

We almost daily meet with cases of this kind, both in practice and in the writers of observations ; therefore it will be superfluous to produce here many more histories in confirmation of this opinion, till we come to the cure of diseases of the skin in general.

I shall just mention the celebrated *Morgagni*, speaking of cutaneous cases || he condemns the cure by

* Vid. Mémoire sur l'Usage du Stramonium, par J. L. Odhelius.
Vid. Mémoires de l' Académie Royale des Sciences de Stockholm,
traduit par M. De Keralio.

|| De sede morborum Epist. 55.

topics alone, unless in a body otherwise healthy, the infection recent, and received by contact: he gives instances of the bad effects of using topics alone.

The ingenious Prof. *Whytt* attributes various nervous disorders to a morbid matter, in cutaneous cases, which instead of being thrown off by the skin, is re-assumed into the blood, and deposited on some of the internal parts. †

Having now discussed the opinions of Pathologists concerning the morbid deviations of the fluids, as the cause of cutaneous diseases, and having almost confuted the most received doctrine of the general morbid change of the fluids: ‡

It now remains, that we enquire into the seat and causes of some of the various MALADIES of the skin, and in particular into that of the NETTLE-RASH. These may be natural or preter-natural; proceed from a diseased state of the fluids, or a morbid

‡ Vid. Dr. *Whytt's observations on Nerv. Dif.*

† Those that would see more on this subject, may consult the ingenious Dr. Lettsome's reflections on fevers; sect. 8. p. 18. of the disease of the fluids in general.

state of the cutaneous secretions, or merely a topical affection.

1st. We shall distinguish the seat into the usual organs of perspiration.

2d. The excretory ducts of the sebaceous glands.

3d. The excretory vessels in the roots of the hair.

Although all these species can arise in general distinct in themselves, yet those may evidently concur, sometimes to produce one and the same effect, and we may often find them combined.

As it is most likely, that perspiration, as well as sweat, sometimes contains a certain acrimony in them, that existed before in the blood, of what nature we are as yet ignorant. We know from the urine a saline acrimony of the ammoniacal kind is produced by nature alone, in every system the most sound and healthy.

Therefore a warm climate obviates scurvy, though the same putrid aliment there takes place. This saline matter assimulates, or mixes itself with the most fluid secretions of the body, as a fit menstruum for it, and hence a great quantity of it is discharged by the organs of urine, perspiration, or sweat; from which cause the

LUES VENERIA is more easily cured in summer than winter.

Again, sweat and perspiration are both excrementitious fluids; it appears most likely, that along with them is deposited on the surface of the body an acrid matter: we would suppose a specific ferment, the nature of which we are as yet ignorant of, and that it is capable of assimulation.

The exhalation of perspiration, or the effusion of sweat, may often leave a morbid matter on the extreme vessels of the skin, or on its surface under the cuticle, or the same may coalesce on the surface of the body, will sufficiently appear from what has been said before.

When sweat is detained under the cuticle, the eruption will be nearly local; from the alter'd state of the secretory organs in the skin. This morbid state may be owing to obstructions of exhalent arteries, stricture of these parts, independent of viscidity in the fluids, and may there shew the various effects of its acrimony. It has been said, that the inhabitants of the hotter climates are accustom'd to sweat much; from thence are more liable

liable to diseases of the skin, than those of a more cold region.

De Haen attributes the miliary eruption to heat, or a hot regimen : we often find a red miliary eruption which comes on after fevers ; it seems a disposition essential to the going off of the fever, and generally leaves the patient without the aid of medicines. **BLISTERS** have been observed to rise in the febrile rheumatism, in the part covered with flannel. Yet according to the cel. *Heberden* heat does not appear to be the cause of the NETTLE-RASH.

Sometimes an altered determination of the fluids to the vessels of the organs of perspiration, or sweat, their action may be so increased, as to occasion a change in the cuticular excretions : Therefore we may with a kind of probability, conclude that it is endued with such a viscidity, that it cannot pass through the pores of the skin, and will be accumulated under it.

Hence **VESICULÆ**, **ERYSIPelas**, &c. are produced by the various sharp matter applied to the surface of the body. Whether ever tumours in the

Effera

Effera are to be ascribed to the cuticle itself difficultly emitting perspiration, may not this sometimes happen, and by irritating them excite these swellings and produce the itching?

2d. In the roots of the hairs we have another seat of exudation or effusion, on the skin. Every one knows that from these a discharge arises which partly follows the course of the hair, and partly is diffused on the cuticle.

Nor is it incredible that this as well as other secretions to be liable to diseases e. g. the **TINEA CAPITIS**, and in other parts of the body where the hairs are only small and their roots are less fit for discharging a thick humour, a thin and little shining scale is formed about the parts to which the roots are inserted. This is called *Lepra Ichthyosis*. Sauvag. Also the different colour'd spots almost always about the hairs, which the ingenious *Hulme* observes in the SCURVY. But this hypothesis does not appear to me to be applicable to the Effera.

3d. Another fountain of cutaneous diseases is sup-

posed

posed to be in the surface of the skin, in the sebaceous glands from whence no hairs arise.

Altho' some doubts amongst Anatomists, have arose concerning the existence of those glands, we cannot dispute that a deprav'd matter is deposited on the skin.

We sometimes observe the like discharge in the **CRONA GLANDIS**, or **TARSUS** of the eye lids to undergo great changes. It is often very difficult to determine whether certain maladies of the skin take their origin from the roots of the hairs, or the sebaceous glands.

However we often find a sharp matter to exude from the one or the other seat from whence the part is irritated, inflam'd, and sometimes excoriated.

If what is evacuated be thick, it may coalesce and sometimes form **FAVI**, **ACHOR**, or **CRUSTA LACTEA**. This last sometimes takes its origin from the child's diet, as I have observed at times the changing of the nurse, or child's diet, to fresh broths, will sometimes almost immediately cure it.

We may conclude a certain acrimony to exist in the system, from the **SYPHILIS**, which is often re-

marked

marked to appear on the surface of the body in eruptions; often in the margins of the hairy scalp, and called CORONA VENERIS.

In the formation of the Effera, the humour will be inspissated, from its stagnation; the parts that contain it will be enlarg'd, hence arise small hard cutaneous tumours, &c.

P R O G N O S T I C.

The NETTLE-RASH is attended with no danger, but is very troublesome by its itching, so as sometimes to make them decline, and almost weary of life. But it admits of an easy cure.

The M E T H O D of C U R E.

The following method of cure has been successfully practised by my father, in this disease, for above 30 Years.

It does not consist of a FARRAGO of Medicines, and yet he rarely found it to fail; in a great many cases both single and complicated, he does not doubt but in general it will be found as effectual as the CORTEX in, *Intermittents*, or MERCURY in the *Lues Veneria*.

The Essera may arise from causes mentioned by authors, that he does not at present remember to have met with ; as the external application of cantharides, cow-itch, &c. in which cases he cannot be answerable for its effects : but the experience I have had of them has confirmed the practice. They are as follow ;

Re: Elix. Vitriol. acid. unc. j. cuius capiat guttas xx. ad 50 ter die, ex haustu aquæ fontanæ.

The vitriolic acid has lately, in *Germany*, † been recommended as a cure for the Itch. The two patients that I gave it to, found no effect from it ; so further experience must determine its utility. Perhaps for want of distinguishing the *ESSERA* from the common *ITCH* the vitriolic acid may have got its reputation in the cure of this disease. One might suppose from the effects of the vitriolic acid, in the *NETTLE-RASH*, that there was an alkalescent state either in the mass of blood, or in the cutaneous secretaries : as an alkalescent state of the fluids is suspected in the *SCURVY*, and

† Vid. the very useful Medical Commentaries by a Society in *Edinburgh*, vol. i. p. 203.

in putrid and malignant FEVERS. But the vitriolic acid may act in another way, by taking off the laxity of the cutaneous organs, and by that means increasing their secretions, and from thence also diaphoretic. Their effects on the mass of blood are very doubtful ; Dr. *Mc Bride* is of opinion, that acids unchanged will not be taken up by the absorbent vessels, and if we suppose them taken up, they would be highly dangerous. Dr. *Crell* produces experiments, to prove that although acids may be so far alter'd in the PRIMÆ VIÆ, as not to effervesce with alkalines, may nevertheless check putrefaction.

The vitriolic acid will irritate the bronchia, and increase sometimes a COUGH, and suppress or abate HAEMORRHAGES ; hence we are to be cautious of their exhibition, when the ESSERA is complicated with HAEMOPTOE ; also in some COUGHS where the matter is thin, and during the flow of the CATAMENIA ; unless they should be too profuse.

When the case is not complicated no other regimen is necessary but such as the patient found agreed with him in a good state of health.

I shall relate the histories of some complicated cases; but to insert them all would be tedious, and exceed the bounds of this treatise; from what has been said before, and from a knowledge of the case complicated with the NETTLE-RASH, there will be no difficulty to judge of the propriety or impropriety of the medicine, in various complicated cases.

In some cases where I was afraid least the vitriolic acid should not agree with the stomach, Elix. vitriol. dulc. was given, which did not answer so well as the acid. I tried in a few cases spirit. nitr. dulc. on the recommendation of an old practitioner in medicine, which had similar effects as Elix. vitriol. dulc.

The above diagnostics of the NETTLE-RASH will easily distinguish it from some very common eruptions, mentioned by *Van Swieten.* *

“ Fateor me in similibus casibus saepe spectatorem
 “ egisse tantum, dum videram plurimis tentatis non
 “ cessisse haec mala, licet purgantibus, sudoriferis &c.
 “ subducere conarer illa, quae his eruptionibus fomi-
 “ tem dare credideram. Externis autem exsiccantibus,

* Comment. Vol. 2. p. 403.

“ vel repellentibus, impedire haec naturæ molimina
 “ periculorum est, ut plurima observata testantur, nisi
 “ in vicinis vel aliis locis similia repullulent. ”

These eruptions are also mentioned by various authors under different names. In those eruptions, Elix. vitriol. acid. has failed more frequently than it succeeded with me.

M. N. A Lady aged 20 years, who had laboured under the Effera for several months, took first pills composed of Solut. mercur. sublim. corros. Puly. rhei & jalap. the Ung. Citrin. de ph. Edin. was applied externally ; these only palliated. The next spring she took the Pilul. æthiop. de ph. Edin. with an addition of a fourth part of the pil. ruf. and had Unguent. citrin. repeated ; which she thought encreased the number of eruptions : she then took pills of solut. mercur. corros. subl. gum. guaiac. arabic. & Tart. emet. superbibendo aq. marin. lib. ff. cum aq. font. unc. IV perinxxt. and the following liniment.

Re. Ung. præcip. alb. unc. j.

Vitriol. alb. scrup. ij.

Lixiv. tartar. q. s. ut fiat linimentum cuius parum

bis

bis die, ad partes affectas utend. Which palliated.

In June following she was no better ; sea water was changed for Decoct. ulmi, and she continued the pills and liniment ; this course also palliated. She then took drops e spirit. vitriol. dulc. without any apparent effect, and was at last cured in August following with

Re. Elix. vitriol. acid. unc. j.

Capiat guttas xxx ter die, ex haustu aquæ fontanæ.

Some have with these eruptions, or after them, little blisters resembling the MILIARIS ALBA, which are cured in the same way.

A nailer, aged 50 years, rather hypochondriacal, from suspicion of a venereal affection, contracted 20 years ago ; he had then erratic pains, not nocturnal ; a humid asthma of a long continuance, and the NETTLE-RASH of a few days standing. Three doses of Pulv. Dover. and drops composed of spirit. Terebinth. æther. in honey, had no effect. He then took

Re. Lac. ammon. unc. iiij

Syr. scillit. unc. ij.

Aq.

Aq. cinnam. spirit. unc. j. Misce fiat Julep. cuius
capiat cochlearia duo larga, cum cochleare mini-
mo Elix. vitriol. dulc.

Re. Pil. æthiop. de ph. Edin. drach. ij.

Ruf. drach. j.

Camphor. drach. fs.

Mucilag. gum. arab. q. f. fiant pilulæ N°
xij. e singulis drachmis quarum capiat jj.
mane et vesperi.

The eruptions were cured; and with a flannel-shirt,
and drinking two pints of malt tea in the day, join'd
with exercise, he got well of the rest of his Complaints.

A woman aged 44 years, who had been long subject
to an habitual head-ach, was seized with the NETTLE-
RASH; she took the following medicine, which palli-
ated the head-ach, and cured the RASH.

Re. Elix. vitriol. dulc. unc. j.

Capiat guttas 50 ter die, ex quovis vehiculo.

Sydenham's method of treating this disease is by V. S.
purging, and an anodyne after it, at bed-time: he
thinks it stands less in need of externals than the other
species of ERYsipelas.

and

Turner treats it as *Sydenham*, but he omits anodynies, and says no local medicines are to be applyed †

Van Swetien mentions this species of *Sydenham*, that he had some times seen it; and even also arising without any προφάσει; equally in summer as winter. “ Fere
 • semper sentiebant molestam anxietatem circa præcor-
 • dia, antequam prorumperent haec exanthemata;
 • illisque subito evanidis, quod saepè fit, redibat haec
 • anxietas; cessans iterum, dum prodirent denuo.” *

To expel this he recommends emetics or cathartics.

Cullen takes it to be somewhat inflammatory, and that we are to avoid a warm regimen, and observe a cool one; and if any symptom of considerable fever arises bleeding is to be practised. §

Dr. *Heberden* thinks cold and warm bathing innocent and useles: mercurial and sulphurous ointments, rad. helleb. alb. externally applied are ineffectual: Oil, vinegar, and spirit. vin. sometimes palliate.

† Turner's treatise of diseases of the skin. p. 61.

* Van Swieten. aphor. vol. 2. p. 401.

§ Cullen's lect. on pract. M. S. S.

I did intend to have given a chronological catalogue of the Physicians who have wrote on this disease, after the manner of *Astruc*: † but finding neither a sufficient library at hand, or leisure: have at present defer'd it till a better opportunity offers.

I shall conclude with a few observations on some of the common medicines for cutaneous cases in general.

If we were certain of the disease being always topical, merely seated in the skin, it would not only be superfluous, but sometimes prejudicial, to order medicines to change the whole system; when topical applications would only be necessary.

The suspicion of an acrimony in the blood, and that the intestines were the common *cloaca* of the body, by which it was with repeated purging cleared from impurities. Where a phlogistic determination to the skin exists, refrigerant laxatives may be useful; but in general, it is more natural to suggest that maladies of the skin will be more easily removed, by the cutaneous secretions, than by the intestines: by promoting a cuticular discharge by diaphoretics.

The generality of writers attributed diseases of the

† Treatise of the venereal disease.

skin to the SCURVY ; hence the use of antiscorbutics : but no disease was more inaccurately defined, till the ingenious Dr. *Lind* described it ; before, it was every obstinate chronic disease.

In *Boerhave's* time, all eruptions difficult to cure, were thought to be the SCURVY : pimples on the face were not excepted. Dysepulotic ulcers in the legs, were scorbustic ; pains of the hypochondriac region were a latent SCURVY.

They meant by it some undetermined degeneracy of the fluids ; but now it is so well defined, that it cannot be mistaken for any other disease ; and it is in that species of diseases that the Suc. scorb. will be found useful : not in eruptions proceeding from another origin.

We have few topical medicines ; most of them act more on the system in general, than on particular organs ; for sulphur itself, externally applied, if it according to *Cheselden* cures the ITCH, by anointing the legs alone ; it must affect the system.

It is the opinion of the judicious *Hoffman*, that when chronical and dangerous distempers terminate in cutaneous eruptions, ITCH, &c. as it were by a crisis, no evacuations

evacuations must be made : the case is the same when nature throws out eruptions for salutary purposes ; for then the tendency of nature must be assisted by diaphoretics ; and notwithstanding what has been said of the *viperæ* in the cure of disorders of the skin, by several celebrated writers, they are justly condemned by him, and he is very cautious in the use of topics : and would have the humours first evacuated, and give along with them diaphoretics ; otherwise he says the ITCH and such like diseases, when suppress'd by externals, would produce various complaints.

DIAPHORETICS are very useful in MALADIES of the skin, whether depending on a topical affection or from acrimony of the blood ; being determined to the surface of the body, they will there promote the circulation of the fluids ; open and remove obstructions of the skin : let us therefore enquire into the choice of them.

WATERS, without doubt, by their great fluidity are adapted to enter the minutest vessels of the human body, and therefore are fitted to promote every secretion and excretion of the animal oeconomy.

MINERAL WATERS are frequently used with success, as *Scarborough Waters*, &c. and although they principally pass by the urinary passage, yet in a small quantity they are determined to the skin, and therefore may have a diaphoretic effect; and by that means the acrimony of the blood, which for the most part is saline, and most fitly dissolved by water, and with it eliminated from the body.

In MINERAL WATERS, or a solution of sal. polych. in aqua fontana, by the stimulus that is added to simple water, by which the secretory vessels are stimulated, it will be better if it is first determined to the skin by the warm bath.

Thus in the SCROPHULA, a disease of the lymphatics, which often shews its effects on the skin, we find the great utility of MINERAL WATERS.

SEA-WATER was lately brought into much esteem, by the ingenious Dr. Russel and his friends; but it requires great judgment in its exhibition: for I have known it in some cases break the constitution, from which ensued a DROPSY; or by being repelled, ulcers in the intestines.

A robust young man, with some few eruptions of the LEPRA GRÆCORUM, was directed to bathe in the sea, in summer; the eruptions soon disappear'd, but was seized with a general DROPSY, of which he died, notwithstanding the most effectual means were tried, by two Physicians, that are commonly used in that disease.

A gentleman, rather in the decline of life, that had been long afflicted with the moist LEPROSY, drank first Scarborough-water, and afterwards Sea-water; by which his LEPROSY left him; but in its place he begun to pass *pus* by stool, which emaciated him very fast; and he died in less than a year of a perfect *maraasmus*: notwithstanding the advice of more Physicians than one.

These two instances point out to us the bad effects which repulsion produces, and shew the system to be affected.*

GUAIACUM contains a refine, which is *diaphoretic*;

* Those that would see more of aq. marin. may consult Dr. RUSSEL on Sea-water, and Dr. SPEEDS de aqua marina commentarius.

and being diffused in water, as it is by decoction, it may be useful by washing off the acrimony, and expelling the same through the apertures: but whether it is as useful as it was suspected in the last Century appears only uncertain. The Decoc^t. lignor. is at present generally directed for venereal eruptions; an addition of Tart. emet. to it will render it much more effectual in this case, and to the poor it may very well supply the place of SARSAPARILLA.

ANTIMONY and MERCURY are more powerful diaphoretics; as yet we have rarely observed good effects from Antimon. præp. which contains such a quantity of BRIMSTONE, that the metallic part is rendered inert; but the SULPHUR being removed, and the reguline part reduced to the form of a saline COMPOUND, or CALX by Acids, will produce the most efficacious preparation of ANTIMONY: and given in small quantities does not much irritate the alimentary canal; but will pass on, and relax the pores of the skin, and occasion an increased perspiration or sweat. Of the officinal preparations of antimony for this purpose, the best is TARTAR EMETIC,

or

or ANTIMONIAL WINE ; but to what species of disease of the skin and its exact dose, sufficient experiments have not yet I am afraid been ascertained.

MERCURY is a more efficacious and useful diaphoretic. It will stimulate all the excretory vessels of the system, and therefore will evacuate greatly the humours, and resolve obstructions of the skin ; particularly the Solution of sublimate : but to what peculiar acrimony it is accommodated to evacuate or correct, besides the venereal, we are altogether ignorant.

In the SCORBUTIC ACRIMONY it has done harm, in SCROPHULA there is much doubt concerning its utility ; in CANCERS, and some other affections it can be of no use ; MERCURY is consequently not an universal remedy : and to what other species of cutaneous cases, besides the VENEREAL, it is useful we shall leave others to enquire and direct.

The experienced *Bromfeild* † condemns the general method of treating eruptions ; as “ pimples, rash, tetteres or blotches, by V. S. repeated purges, nitrous, or other cooling medicines ; hence on the eruptions

† On inoculated Small-pox, p. 34.

“ disappearing,

“ disappearing, soon after follow complaints of sto-
 “ mach and bowels, pains about the joints, loss of ap-
 “ petite, cough, head-ach; being extremely liable to get
 “ cold: any former eruption untimely suppress'd, or
 “ not encouraged to spread itself on the skin, when it
 “ first appeared, should (I am convinced from experi-
 “ ence) be supported by sweats twice in the week; ly-
 “ ing in blankets during their operation, and by giv-
 “ ing a strong decoction of the BARK and SARSAPA-
 “ RILLA on the intermediate days, many have been
 “ restored to health. In the progress of the cure, ge-
 “ nerally some eruptions have appeared on the
 “ skin, and the patients have instantly been relieved
 “ from the other complaints ”

Just before, speaking of VENEREAL PAINS, he
 mentions sweating to be effected by DOVER's POW-
 DER; he also says, great numbers of scorbutic fore
 legs have been cured by a course of this kind, which
 resisted MERCURY, BARK, and ANTIMONIALS, &c.

To conclude, we know that it is a disease of the sys-
 tem by the ANXIETAS FEBRILIS that attends its e-
 ruption, and the symptoms grow easier on its appear-
 ance.

ance. By the bad effects that repulsion produces, growing cachectic, or if on their appearance the sick are freed from some complaints, which on the retrocession of the eruption again return ; we can have no doubt of their being diseases of the system, and require its being put into a proper state of health, by internals as well as topics.

A PHYSICIAN may be too timorous, as well as too bold in practice ; and the sick sometimes suffer the one way, as well as the other.

Auream quisquis mediocritatem

Diligit, tutus —

F I N I S.



A D D E N D A.

P. 20. l. 22. after *sweat*, read in a hot season. P. 11.
l. 14. after *burns*, add the *application* of couhage or
cow-itch, cut-hair to the skin. P. 17. l. 5. after *decu-*
bitus, read *quotidie et semel repetatur Linimentum.*

E R R A T A. P. 10. l. 4. for *venerial*, read *venereal*.
P. 17. l. 2 for *Parre*, read *Parey*. P. 19, line last for *disease*,
read *diseases*. P. 20. l. 5. for *scabaceous*, read *sebaceous*. P. 21. l. 1
for *veneria*, read *venerea*; same word P. 25. line last P. 22. l.
10. for *apppear*, read *appear*. P. 22. l. 15. for *execrations*, read
excretions. P. 30. l. 15. for *venerial*, read *venereal*. P. 32. l. 3.
for *Swetien*, read *Swieten*.